(b) The total number of ED employees includes teachers etc. but details are not maintained separately. The total number of ED employees as on 31.10.68 is of the order of 2,98,000.

Wage$_s$ of ED branch post masters

1276. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basi$_s$ of fixing the minimum and maximum emoluments of ED employees;

(b) whether ED Branch Post Masters work for 3 hours daily and get Rs. 275 per month; if so$_j$ what is their number; and

(c) to what extent the ED-BPMs have been benefited by the recommendations of the ED committee and what has been the minimum and maximum gain to each ED BPM since 1st January, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO); (a) The allowances of extra departmental employees are fixed between a minimum and maximum basic allowance depending on workload.

(b) ED Branch Post Masters are required to keep open branch post offices for a period of not less than 3 hours on all days on which the post office is kept open. They are paid a basic allowance ranging from Rs. 275 to Rs. 440 per month based on workload. In addition, they are paid Dearness Allowance, office Main tenance Allowance, Fixed Stationery Allowance and Delivery Allowance whereever applicable. Th$_e$ $_n$umber of branch post masters is 1,16,622 as on 31.3.1988.

(c) The details of allowance drawn by the ED Branch Postmasters be fore 1.1.1986 and after 1.1.1986 are given below:

Nature of Allowance	Drawn before 1-1-1986 (Rs.)		Drawn after 1-1-1986 (Rs.)		Increase (Rs.)	
	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX	MIN	MAX
Basic Allowance	217	265	275	440	58	175
Office Main. Allowance	10		25			15
Fixed Stationery Allowance	1		3			2
Delivery Allowance wherever applicable	15		50			35

Apart from the above allowances, th* ED employees (including EDBPMs) ar$_e$ also entitled to Dearness Allowance at the same rate and frequency at which it i$_s$ granted to departmental employees. Prior to 1.1.1986, the allowances were revised on 1st September, every year on the basis of incrase on Consumer Price Index. After 1.1.1986, they have been brought on par with the departmental employees in the matter *ot* grant of Dearness Allowance.

Electronic telephone exchange$_s$ in Haryana

1277. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since approved the setting up of electronic